

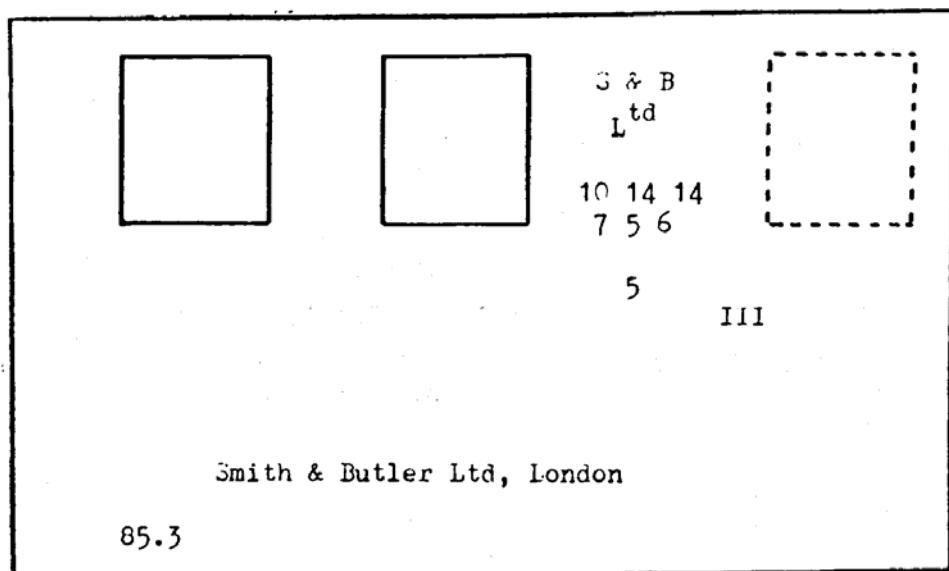
MEMBERS INTERESTS

J M Ruckridge

I joined the Society (the G B Perfin Study Group as it was then) in 1959 as the result of an article in Stamp Collecting by Derrick Muggleton and John Nelson. At first I amassed whatever I could obtain and mounted the perfins ten to a sheet of quarto graph paper. The perfins were put in alphabetical order but of course new ones (new to me that is) had to be put at the end out of order. Eventually this made it laborious to check whether I had a particular pattern or not. When the Tilles catalogue came out I transferred the perfins to it mounting them face up. Of course this meant that I "lost" the illustrations and could only mount one copy of each.

It seems to me that collecting each perfin on as many different stamps as possible is pretty pointless. If I have a pattern on say a QV Jubilee and a QE Wilding it adds very little if anything to our knowledge to have it on KE VII, KG V, KE VIII and KGVI stamps as well. Therefore my aim is to collect no more than two stamps per perfin - the earliest and latest issues that I have seen. Therefore I would like to see the Tilles re-issued with an illustration plus two spaces for each die. However this would treble the bulk and make it prohibitively expensive.

As an interim measure I decided to concentrate on identified perfins and mount these on the 5" x 3" record cards obtainable from stationers. The completed card looks like this:



The information is typed in with the exception of the serial number which I entered in pencil (luckily in view the proposal to renumber). The two spaces on the left are for the earliest and latest stamps I possess on which this perfin occurs. The type description is from the catalogue and the right-hand space is for an illustration. At one time

I intended making contact prints but shall now buy a second copy of the new Tilles catalogue and cut out the relevant perfins. Perhaps one day I may extend this to the unidentified perfins, though I doubt this!

At first I kept these cards in commercially available cabinets but I soon found this inconvenient as to look at a card it was necessary to remove it completely. Constant fingering would soon have made them grubby. So I decided to mount them three to an A4 page of white paper of the "heavy typing" grade. Four diagonal cuts are made at the corners of each card so that cards can easily be inserted or removed. By leaving a blank page after every four or five it is possible to maintain the very desirable strict alphabetical order.

When Ron Bowman died I bought through the Society auction his railway perfins collection. Although extensive it was not complete and I am hoping to make it so. The missing items are proving very elusive and I would welcome any help members can give me. After my day I would like the collection to revert to the Society as a memorial to Ron, but I realise that where to keep it would then be a problem.

I am also collecting Sheffield perfins and mount them with a brief history of the firm concerned.

I keep all my material bound in the manner described elsewhere in this issue. I find it much the most satisfactory method. When opened the leaves lie flat and the large number of slots means that they do not need reinforcing even with much use. For backs and fronts I use the backs of scribbling pads but nicer looking materials can be used.

I also collect covers and pieces with proof of identity. These present a problem because of the varying sizes. I therefore mount each one on an 8" x 5" record card. The only additional information is the lettering of the perfins, its serial number and the name of the user. The latter is not of course required when the front shows it but very often it is on the back especially in the case of postcards.

As Secretary for 16 years and Treasurer for 10 I find that record-keeping, administration, answering letters etc mean that I do not have as much time as I would like to work on my own perfins but I find the tasks rewarding. My recent retirement does not seem to have added very much to available spare time - in fact I seem to be busier than ever; not, I am told, an uncommon experience.